

F-7-69

Matthias Geigis House
Urbana vicinity
Private

Ca. 1860; ca. 1910-1920

The Matthias Geigis House is minimally significant for the architecture of the circa 1860 dwelling, which has a three-bay main elevation with german siding and 2/2 windows, interior end chimneys, and a corrugated metal roof. A two-story rear wing was considerably altered in the 1990's and a one-story bedroom addition was built on the east gable end in the 1950's. A log outbuilding probably built about 1860 as a smokehouse or meathouse has a tongue-and-groove paneled interior, an alteration of the early 20th century, when it was used as a dry house for flowers and herbs. Other contributing outbuildings are a stone building possibly used as a cooling shed for milk storage and later as a meathouse, built about 1920, and a frame wagon shed/corn crib, built about 1920. Matthias Geigis purchased a 74-acre parcel in 1859 from Charles Johnson, a son of Roger Johnson. The Geigis family was one of the small congregation attending the Bennett Creek M. E. Church during the 1860's. By 1866, the property was sold to Fanny McPherson, the wife of John McPherson, and was frequently resold over the next 100 years, eventually leaving extant only three of the associated outbuildings.

F-7-69

Matthias Geigis House
Urbana
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Cederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-7-69

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Matthias Geigis House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2417 Thurston Road

☐ not for publication

city, town Urbana

☒ vicinity of

congressional district 6th

state Maryland

county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Francis E. and Linda A. Becker

street & number 2417 Thurston Road

telephone no.:

city, town Frederick

state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

liber 1887

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street

folio 930

city, town Frederick

state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. F-7-69

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 4

The Matthias Geigis House is a two-story frame dwelling built about 1860 with additions built in the 1950's and 1993 with three associated outbuildings remaining from the original farmstead, a log outbuilding possibly built as a meathouse about 1860, a frame wagon shed/corn crib built about 1900-1915, and a one-story stone building erected about 1920 possibly as a milk house or other agricultural outbuilding. The formerly agricultural complex, now principally a private residence, is located on the east side of Thurston Road about 1/4 mile south of the intersection with Peters Road near Urbana, Frederick County, Maryland. The buildings are grouped at the end of an extended driveway leading through open fields adjoined by other residential properties. The dwelling's principal elevation faces south with the log outbuilding immediately northeast of the rear wing of the house and the other contributing outbuildings located to the west interspersed with several non-contributing agricultural outbuildings. Dates for the buildings are based on architectural evidence, land records, historical maps, and a personal interview with the current owner.

The house has a three-bay south elevation and is covered with german siding. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal with interior end chimneys. The house is approached from the slightly elevated area at the end of the driveway also a modern brick and stone walk and terrace. The entrance is in the center bay and has a modern replacement 6-panel door in a reproduction Classical Revival surround with a broken pediment. The windows are 2/2 with modern replacement shutters. The west elevation has a single off-center bay near the northwest corner and a louvred attic vent. The north elevation of the house has a two-story rear wing extending from the northwest corner. A 1950's shed-roofed addition incorporating a family room adjoins the wing. The wing has a standing seam metal roof and an interior end chimney. A modern exterior brick chimney is on the addition. The east side of the wing has an enclosed one-story porch with modern exterior siding, the work done in 1993. The east gable end of the main section of the house is obscured by the 1950's one-story addition containing a bedroom. Above the addition are two 2/2 attic windows. Most of the interior of the house has been greatly altered in finish and by the additions in the 20th century. A modern kitchen now occupies most of the rear wing. The center stair is located just inside the main door. The house was apparently built to accommodate stoves for heat, with narrow flues instead of a full chimney breast in the east and west rooms.

Log outbuilding: The log outbuilding located just east of the rear wing was described to the current owner by a previous occupant of the house as being a "dry house", where herbs, flowers, and perhaps meats were hung to dry. The exterior of the gables is covered with board and batten siding and the roof is corrugated metal. The interior is paneled with whitewashed tongue-and-groove walls and ceiling, concealing the original log interior. The single door on the west elevation is also tongue-and-groove. The building is partially banked into the slope of the site on the south side. The building's original log materials, its location near the rear wing of the house, and its general plan and features indicate

8. Significance

Survey No. F-7-69

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1860; C. 1910-1920 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Matthias Geigis House is minimally significant for the architecture of the exterior, which illustrates the vernacular style of the rural farmhouse in the period about 1860. The house has several modern alterations on the exterior, but the general form of the three-bay house with a rear wing and its original german siding are mostly intact. The associated log outbuilding is also of minimal significance, having been altered in the early 20th century, but it also retains the appearance of the typical log smokehouse or meathouse commonly found in mid-19th century farmsteads. The farm was probably established by Matthias Geigis, who purchased an approximately 74-acre parcel for \$596 from Charles Johnson, a son of Roger Johnson. No information on Geigis has been found other than Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910), which states that the Geigis family was one of four which attended the Bennett Creek Methodist Episcopal Church or House's Chapel. The church was active from about 1855 until after 1910, when the second building, erected in 1881, was apparently moved to Urbana to serve as the parish house of the Urbana Methodist Episcopal Church. (The correct spelling of Geigis is unclear; land records give the name variously as "Geigeas" or "Gerigeas", although the hand-written records are difficult to decipher. The spelling Geigis was used in Williams & McKinsey.) By 1866, the Geigis property had been sold to Fanny R. McPherson, wife of John McPherson, whose name appears as the owner on the 1873 Titus Atlas map. The property changed hands at least once in every decade, and six times in the 1940's, until the 1960's. Over the period, several other outbuildings undoubtedly were built and demolished.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-7-69

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 915.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acresQuadrangle name Urbana, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 3 acres centered on the dwelling on Tax Map 105, Parcel 42

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date November 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2022
514-7600

PS-2746

7.1 Description (Continued)

that it was built as a meathouse or smokehouse. The addition of the interior paneling probably took place in the early 20th century, when the function of meat storage may have been shifted to the stone outbuilding west of the domestic buildings. The log meathouse was built about 1860.

Stone outbuilding: The stone outbuilding on the north side of the driveway is located nearer the agricultural group than to the domestic group, suggesting that its original use may have been as a cooling shed or milk can storage shed. Mrs. Becker, the current owner, was told that meat was stored in the building by early 20th century residents of the farmstead. The building is general square in plan with a glazed panel door in the south elevation and two 2/2 windows in the east elevation and one on the west elevation. The shed roof is standing seam metal. The interior has whitewashed walls and currently has shelves for tool storage and work space. The building was probably built in the 1920's.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed has a single corn crib supported on concrete piers on the east side flanking the drive passage. The interior and exterior siding is horizontal, with modern vertical siding on the west elevation. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and the gable ends have horizontal tongue-and-groove siding. The wagon shed was probably built about 1920.

247 Thurston

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
1887/930 10 May 93	Francis E. + Linda A. Becker	Larry Blaine McGee	39.6480 A. Plat Book 26/132 "Farm Lot Plat-Schulden"	\$400,000
1450/993 10 Oct 84	Larry Blaine McGee	Dana E. McGee	39.6480 A.	
1186/222 10 Dec 82	Dana E. McGee	Philip C. Byrd	39.6480 A.	\$145,000
697/6 16 Dec 63	Philip C. + Arlene C. Byrd	Gladys A. Mulkenson, widow	60 A., 10 sq. ft.	
472/478 15 Jul 48	Thos. P. + Gladys A. Mulkenson	Peter + Winifred L. Rodger	60 A. 10 sq. ft.	
460/223 17 Jan 47	Peter + Winifred Rodger	George E. + Minerva P. Morris	60 A. 10 sq. ft.	
444/216 11 Oct 44	George E. + Minerva P. Morris	J. Bernard + Edna Frances McClellan, wife	60 A. 10 sq. ft.	
439/399 29 Sept 43	J. Bernard McClellan	Wm. Guy Molesworth unmarried	60 A. 10 sq. ft. Plat Book EGH 2/125 Plat of Property of J. Frederick Omirie et al	
433/563 26 Mar 42	Wm. Guy Molesworth	J. Frederick + Ellen H. Omirie	430/326 399/274 60 A. 10 sq. ft.	
430/326 20 Sept 41	J. Frederick Omirie et al	Olga M. + Roscoe C. Bangs	74 A. 2 R., 36 sq. ft. "The Resurvey on the Two Bachelors" part of the "Sisseton Division" in accordance w/ LWT of Roger Johnson 17 Feb 1831	

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Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
399/274 15 Aug 35	Olga W. Bangs	Charles & Bertha R. Struble	"The Resurvey on the Two Bachelors" 74 A. 2 R., 36 sq. ft. 372/38 BGF 5/360	
386/455 8 Apr 33	Charles & Bertha R. Struble	Wm. H. Struble	90 A.	
386/455 8 Apr 33	Wm. H. Struble	Charles & Bertha R. Struble	90 A.	
372/318 15 Nov 29	Charles & Bertha R. Struble	Albert T. W. & Blanche M. Beall	90 A.	
335/63 1 Mar 21	Albert T. W. Beall	Thomas & Emma Clarke	90 A.	
HWB 310/351 26 Oct 14	Thomas Clarke	John H. Clark exec. of John Clark, dec.	90 A.	\$2700
AF 7/45 Mar 1883 (no date given in deed)	John C. Clarke	John Elliott, executor of Samuel B. Elliott	90 A. on the road from Kubana to Simmons mill TG 7/74	\$1100
TG 7/74 17 Mar 1877	Samuel B. Elliott	Fannie R. McPherson	mortgage part of "Resurvey on the Two Bachelors" part of "Long Measure" 91 1/4 A. part of "Balkin's First Tract" 19 A. CM 6/230	\$1800
TG 7/74 17 Mar 1877	Samuel B. Elliott	Fanny R. McPherson	74 A 20. 36 ft. "The Resurvey on the Two Bachelors" JWLC 3/455, 7 Feb 1866	
DSB 1/650 1 Aug 1860	Fanny R. McPherson	Charles M. McPherson Mr Abbe, trustee in Equity	71 A.	
JWLC 3/455 7 Feb 1866	Jacob Basford Abraham Isaac	Susan Higgins wife of Matthias Higgins, Adam Kolbenburg, Chas. Macabee, Thos Dixon et al Johnson	3 A., part of land conveyed to Higgins by Chas. Johnson	\$50

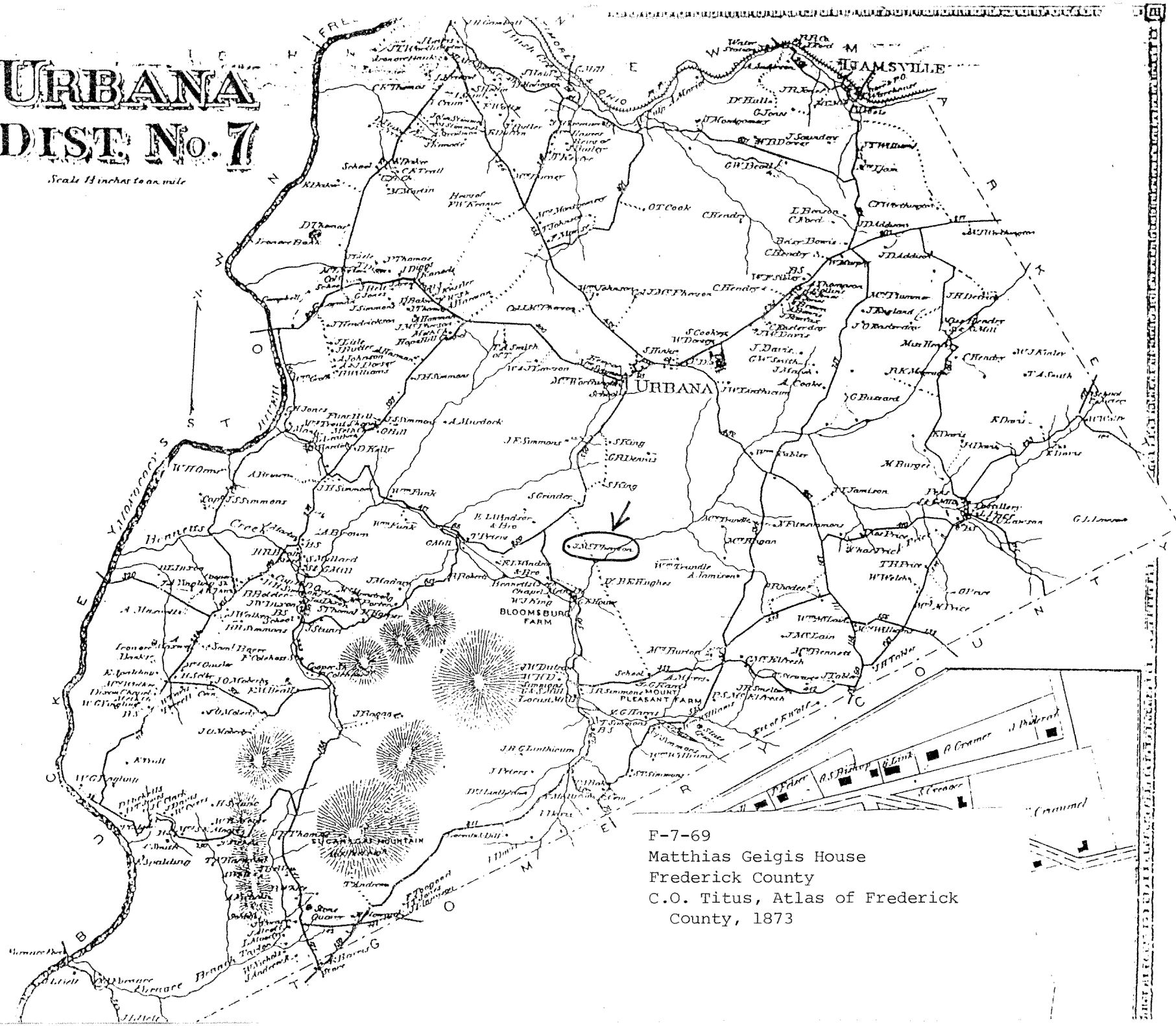
2417 Thurston p. 3

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Original Tracts, Miscellaneous	Cost
BGF 5/360 30 Dec. 1859	Matthias Gerigeas	Charles Johnson	74 A. 2 R. 36 p.	#596

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URBANA DIST No. 7

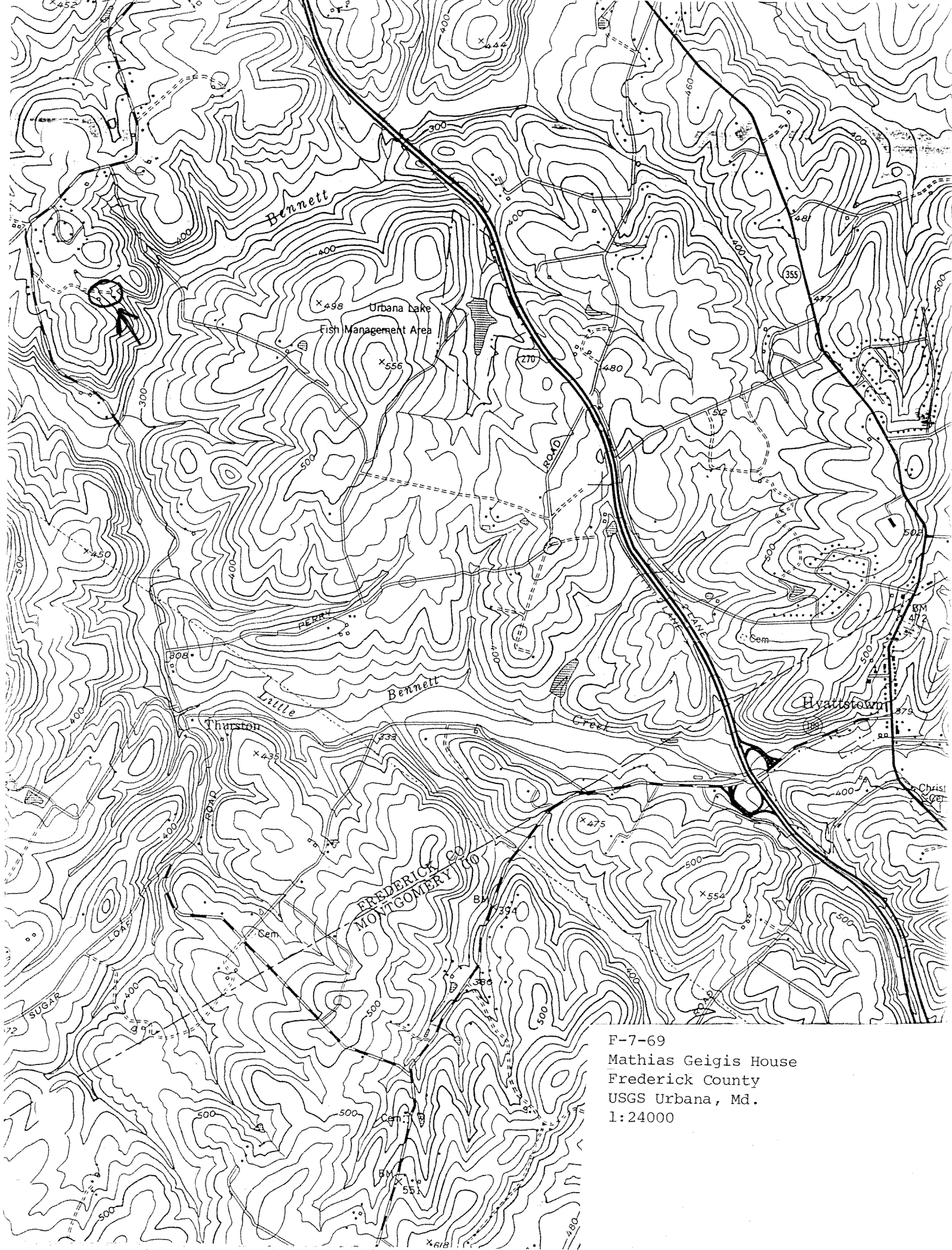
Scale 1/4 inch to a mile



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Matthias Geigis House
Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



F-7-69
Mathias Geigis House
Frederick County
USGS Urbana, Md.
1:24000











